

TRY IT OUT

A Better Potion Than Calamine Lotion



What we won't do for readers! **IvyBlock** lotion (\$12 for a 4-ounce bottle, in drugstores) claims to ward off poison ivy with Bantoquatam, a patented ingredient that blocks the plant's irritating oils. Inspired by Madame Curie and Dr. Jekyll, I applied IvyBlock (a bit drippy, odorless, not sticky) to half a forearm. After it dried, I rubbed both arms with "leaves of three." Then I wiped half the other arm with IvyCleanse towelettes (\$5.50 for 12), whose alcohol/water mix supposedly removes ivy oils. The next day: itchy blisters on untreated areas, near clear on the Block patch, some redness where I used the towelette. Block and Cleanse also come in the IvyComplete kit (\$24), with IvySoothe, a 1 percent hydrocortisone anti-itch cream. My tube is now half empty. *-Mike Salmon*

